

Columbia - State Look up - Sept 2 -  
night before election  
My fellow South Carolinians:

[Sept. 2, 1946]  
(06-10)

This is Labor Day. I think it is indeed fitting and proper that I begin my talk tonight by paying tribute to the laboring people of South Carolina. Those who work in our mills, in our factories and industrial plants, and on our farms, responded to the call of their country during the war, with just as much patriotism and zeal, as did those of us who fought on the battle fields. Without the materials of war which labor produced on the homefront we could not have won the war on the battle front. Here in South Carolina we have had few strikes. The team work between labor and capital during the war has continued during the period of reconversion. We are producing for peace just as we produced for war. This happy condition, I am sure, will continue because there are no finer, more loyal or more patriotic people in the world than the laboring people of South Carolina.

Like millions of other Americans who returned from the grimy battle fields of Europe, and the blood-soaked islands of the Pacific, I had hoped that we had won the war to end all wars. I have abiding faith in that great South Carolinian, James F. Byrnes. If any living man can write a lasting and durable peace, he can. I want to urge the people of South Carolina to pray that Jimmy Byrnes will keep his health and strength to carry on in his gallant fight to prevent certain Communist leaders of Russia from wrecking the peace which was won, at such great cost and sacrifice.

During this critical post-war period, South Carolina needs a Governor who is experienced in Government. Because of my 23 years of experience as a teacher, county superintendent of education, Senator from Edgefield, Judge of the Circuit Court, and a soldier in World War II, I believe I am best qualified to serve you as Governor during the next 4 years.



Between my college years at Clemson I worked on a farm and in the Old Addison Cotton Mill at Edgefield.

In my campaign for Governor I have set forth my platform on every stump in the State. I have spoken on all issues without evasion or equivocation.

The people know that I am opposed to the continued domination of our State government by the Barnwell ring. As a result of the fight I made in the first campaign, the Speaker of the House from Barnwell has announced he will not be a candidate for reelection. This is the beginning of the end of ring rule in S. C.

In this campaign, another ring in South Carolina has reared its ugly head. This summer the liquor dealers set out to put in the Governor's office and in the Legislature, men who would do their bidding. They have held meeting after meeting in Columbia, to devise and scheme plans to try to defeat any candidate for Governor who would not give them the assurance, that their fabulous profits from the liquor traffic would continue undisturbed. I know, and you know, that the liquor interests of this State have raised the greatest slush fund in the history of South Carolina to elect their candidate Governor. Their candidate is not Strom Thurmond, and I am proud of it.

Let me give you just one example which will show how completely my opponent's campaign is wrapped up with the liquor interests. The official publication of the S. C. liquor dealers is the DeCanter. The editor of this liquor publication is helping <sup>to</sup> manage my opponent's campaign, and has been buying radio time for my opponent <sup>has been</sup> ~~and~~ placing newspaper ads for my opponent.

Tomorrow the Democrats of South Carolina are going to ring down the curtain on this notorious liquor ring. Tomorrow the good, honest, Christian people of this State are going to show those who make fortunes in the traffic of liquor that they cannot buy the Governor's office.



And when this arrogant liquor ring is smashed, South Carolina is going to be a better, a happier and a cleaner State.

I have always stood for liberal and progressive government. No one in this campaign has cited one act of mine in any office during my 23 years of public service which was contrary to the best interests of the people of my State.

In this campaign I have not engaged in personalities, and no eleventh hour attacks will cause me to stoop from the high plane on which I have asked the people to support me. I regret that my opponent has seen fit, in the final three days of this campaign, to inject false issues and appeal to prejudices.

The people of South Carolina are intelligent. They know ~~when a~~ <sup>my opponent</sup> ~~candidate~~ <sup>is sending</sup> sends up a smokescreen to hide his support by the liquor forces, and <sup>to conceal his</sup> ~~his unexplained and~~ strange conduct at the 1944 Democratic National Convention. What has driven my opponent to such desperation was the exposure of his solid backing by the liquor interests, and his opposition to the renomination of Franklin D. Roosevelt for President in time of war. These issues were brought out <sup>before</sup> ~~in~~ the first primary.

My opponent was a delegate to the Chicago National Democratic Convention and has admitted he voted against Franklin Roosevelt and for Harry Byrd. I was not at the 1944 Democratic Convention. I had landed in France on D-Day by glider with the 82nd Airborne Division and was fighting with the First Army. But had I been in Chicago, I would have voted for the renomination of my Commander-in-Chief. His defeat in that convention, at that critical stage of our war effort, would have chilled the heart of every fighting man and brought aid and comfort to Hitler and the axis powers.

You have heard my opponent try to justify his bolting the will of the Democratic party of South Carolina by talking about Secretary Byrnes' withdrawal from the race for Vice President.



Remember this, my friends, Jimmy Byrnes worked and voted for the renomination and reelection of Franklin D. Roosevelt. He let nothing interfere with his loyalty to his Chief and his party.

My opponent, during the final three days of the campaign, has charged me with being the candidate of the C. I. O. There is no truth in this assertion. It is false. The people know it is false. My opponent knows it is false, because he waited until the last three days of a 3 months campaign to raise this charge, in a futile effort to divert the people's mind from the fact that he is the candidate of the liquor interests in this campaign, and a bolter of the will of the Democratic party of South Carolina.

My opponent sees defeat. He is desperate. He is like a drowning man grasping for a straw.

My opponent has made other misleading and unfair statements. He refers to me as his bachelor opponent. But, he does not tell the people that while he was knifing our commander-in-chief in Chicago, his bachelor opponent was spilling his blood for this country on the beaches of Normandy. Like other mothers of South Carolina, my dear mother in Edgefield, was praying for the safety of her son, and anxiously awaiting to learn if he survived the injuries ~~he~~ received in action on D-Day. And since my opponent seems worried about my being a bachelor, I want to assure him that this same brave mother will graciously preside at the Governor's mansion after next January when I am inaugurated as your Governor.

The democrats of South Carolina are going to march to the polls tomorrow and elect the candidate for Governor who has always stood for progressive government; who will not abuse the pardoning power and will respect the will of our courts; who will promote the interest of the farmer because agriculture is the backbone of South Carolina economy;



who is a friend of the working man and will resist any attempt to rip from the statute books the laws which have enabled our working people to attain a higher standard of living; who favors development of our <sup>sea</sup> ports and thereby stimulate economic growth of our state; who advocates utilization of our natural resources for the benefit of all of our people; and who opposes the efforts of the power trust to block the development of the Clarks Hill project on Savannah River.

The people are going to elect the candidate who will encourage team work between capital and labor, and assure a square deal for both; who will improve educational facilities, reduce illiteracy and give the youth of South Carolina a better break in life; who favors expanding hospital facilities and providing better medical care within reach of the poor; who will see to it that housing is provided for the veterans, <sup>that</sup> and they are afforded an opportunity to continue their education under the G. I. bill of rights.

They are going to elect a man who has the interest of the <sup>old and needy</sup> ~~helpless~~ people at heart. My record while in the State Senate speaks for itself. While there I was a member of the Social Security Committee which studied, introduced, and passed laws providing for an old age pension, aid to the blind, and needy children.

The people are going to elect the candidate who stands for sobriety in government and who will clean up the deplorable liquor situation in this state; who will serve out his term as governor, and during the next four years give S. C. a clean, honest, business-like administration of the affairs of this state.

Yes, the loyal Democrats of this state, tomorrow, will elect the candidate who wears the collar of no man; who has promised no man a job; who is not the candidate of any clique, ring, group or organization, and is under no obligation to any selfish interests; and who has but one master—the people of South Carolina.



That candidate is J. Strom Thurmond!

In the first primary I led my opponent by over 13 thousand votes. I carried 28 counties; my opponent led in only 14 counties. To the approximately 100,000 South Carolinians who supported me in the first primary, I again express to you my deepest appreciation. To those loyal friends in every county who are working so hard for my election, I want you to know that I shall ever be grateful. I know you will continue your good work tomorrow and see to it that our full vote gets to the polls.

The reports I have received today from every county in South Carolina show that I will be elected by a majority of at least 25,000 votes. The tide which began to roll in the first primary will reach its height tomorrow. We are going to sweep the State from Mountain Rest to Little River and from Fort Mill to Port Royal.

My final pledge of this campaign is that I will be the Governor of all the people. My every act, my every thought, my every move, will be motivated by what is best for the State which has honored me so generously in the past. As Governor, I shall give the best that is in me to the end that South Carolina may continue to grow and prosper and take her rightful place in the sisterhood of states in this nation.

Thank you — Good night